

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSM-03 SCCT-01 IO-13 SAJ-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 /088 W

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R 251350Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 894

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TELAVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR PLO CZ

SUBJECT: PLO RELATIONS WITH CZECHOSLOVAKIA

REF: PRAGUE 2371(NOTAL)

1. EGYPTIAN CHARGE D'AFFAIRES SALAH ABDEL-AZIM FAHMY TOLD DCM AUGUST 24 THAT PLO "FOREIGN MINISTER" KADDUMI WOULD VISIT CZECHOSLOVAKIA "SOON." FAHMY SAID THAT KADDUMI WOULD SIGN A FORMAL AGREEMENT WITH THE CZECHOSLOVAKS ESTABLISHING A PLO REPRESENTATIONAL OFFICE, TO BE ACCREDITED TO THE NATIONAL FRONT--THAT IS, IN EFFECT, TO THE COMMUNIST PARTY. CZECHO-
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SLOVAKS AGREED TO THE OPENING OF A PLO OFFICE IN PRAGUE

DURING ARAFAT VISIT IN MAY 1975. FAHMY BELIEVES THAT CZECHOSLOVAKS HAVE NOW MADE THE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS, INCLUDING OFFICE SPACE. EXACT DATES OF THE VISIT NOT YET KNOWN.

2. WE UNDERSTAND BEIRUT RADIO HAS ANNOUNCED THAT ARAFAT WILL SOON VISIT YUGOSLAVIA, USSR, AND OTHER COMMUNIST COUNTRIES. WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO CONFIRM TO DATE WHETHER KADDUMI WILL COME TO PRAGUE WITH OR WITHOUT ARAFAT. IT IS ALSO UNCERTAIN WHETHER OR NOT SUBJECT OF ARMS FOR PLO MIGHT BE RAISED. ARAFAT'S MAY 1975 TALKS WITH CZECHOSLOVAKS APPARENTLY DID TOUCH ON ARMS PURCHASES, BUT REPORTEDLY THE PRICE ASKED BY PRAGUE WAS TOO HIGH. IN LIGHT OF DEVELOPMENTS IN LEBANON BOTH SIDES MAY HAVE ALTERED THEIR POSITIONS AND POSSIBILITY OF ARMS SALES BY CZECHOSLOVAKS TO PLO CANNOT BE RULED OUT.

3. COMMENT: THERE IS REPORTEDLY A PALESTINIAN IN PRAGUE WHO HAS BEEN HANDLING PLO AFFAIRS FROM HIS STUDENT DORMITORY FOR THE PAST YEAR. WE DO NOT KNOW HIS NAME, NOR ARE WE CONVINCED THAT HE WILL BE DESIGNATED OFFICIAL PLO REPRESENTATIVE, ALTHOUGH THIS POSSIBILITY EXISTS. END COMMENT.

4. IN RELATED DEVELOPMENT CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER JAN FOJTIK WAS REPORTED TO HAVE RECEIVED AUGUST 24 MEMBERS OF LEBANESE COMMUNIST PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE NADIM ABDAS SAMAD AND GEORGES BATTAL. RUDE PRAVO ARTICLE EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR A "LEBANESE SOLUTION" AND CONDEMNED SYRIAN INTERFERENCE.

BYRNE

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